OEIU Board Accepts Teamster Offer To Work Jointly in Organizing Field

**Text of Letter From Teamsters’ Chief**

In a letter presented by Executive Vice President Harold Gibbons of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to OEIU President Howard Coughlin, just prior to the opening of the Office Employees International Union Executive Board meeting at Phoenix, Ariz., James Hoffa, General President of the IBT, offered the assistance of that organization to the OEIU in common goals.

He emphasized the elimination of jurisdictional disputes, joint organizational campaigns on an industry or area basis, and all lawful assistance and support in those industries in which both organizations have a common interest.

The following is the letter received by President Coughlin:

_Mr. Howard Coughlin,

President
Office Employees International Union
265 West 16th Street, Room 610
New York 11, N. Y.

Dear President Coughlin:

“As president of the Office Employees International Union, which has been chartered by the AFL-CIO exclusively for the organization and representation of office and clerical workers throughout America, I know you are deeply aware of the great potential for unionism among white collar workers.

“Our International Union, through its mutual aid agreements with other unions, has found the device of joint organizing campaigns highly beneficial, not only in economic fields, but in those unions with which we are cooperating.

“I believe our two organizations have much to accomplish through joint action in the unification of white collar unions. I know you will agree we have a common interest in achieving organizations of these workers, and that our unions would be far more successful in this task through joint effort and cooperation.

“The white collar employees who are organized are only a minority. Yet, today more and more white collar workers go to work through factory gates. The number and ratio of office and clerical workers has grown tremendously in the last several decades. More than one of every three wage and salary earners (excluding agricultural, supervisory and domestic workers) are ‘white collar.’ Of the 17½ million ‘white collar’ workers, the largest single group is clerical. Its 8½ million members account for about 47 per cent of the white collar work force.

“And as the character of our labor force changes due to the automation and other factors, and the number of white collar workers rise, this unorganized group will constitute an ever-increasing threat to the standards we have won for our members.

“The white collar sectors of the economy have been growing the most rapidly, and even in the blue collar industries, the white collar density has increased the greatest. Forty years ago, the predominately white collar industries accounted for 39 per cent of nonfarm employment, while the predominately blue collar industries—construction, transportation and utilities, construction, and mining—accounted for 41 per cent. Today the positions are reversed. The major white collar industries have 52 per cent of the employment, and the blue collar industries have shrunk to 48 per cent.

“In the last ten years, while collar employment has increased phenomenally. Ten years ago, about 1 of every 6 workers entering manufacturing industries went into a white collar job. Since 1947, between 3 and 4 of every 6 entering the manufacturing forces have been white collar jobs. The past decade has seen a proportional increase of about one-third in white collar manufacturing employment. In 1947, white collar jobs accounted for 14 per cent of total manufacturing employment. Today, these jobs make up over 32 per cent.

“In the years ahead, spurred on by the impact of automation, an even larger and longer proportion of the nation’s total manpower will necessarily be attracted into white collar occupations. By 1975, according to Labor Department estimates, clerical and sales employees will constitute the largest proportion of the labor force.

“Yet this vital group of our working population are, for the most part, largely unorganized. For example, only about 5 per cent of retail-wholesale employees are ‘white collar.’ In the past, these workers have been unorganized. In all of the white collar workers were organized, the labor movement would double in size.

“White collar workers need union protection and help. They are beginning to realize that you can’t get a wage ‘prestige’ and white collar ‘prestige’ does not pay the rent or provide help in meeting installment payments.”

(Continued on page 2)

**Offer Is Made by Hoffa in Letter Read at Board Meet**

The Executive Board of the Office Employees International Union met at Phoenix, Ariz., May 19-22. A number of important matters were discussed and reviewed.

A copy of the letter published on this page, addressed to President Howard Coughlin from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, was read to the board. The offer of the Teamsters to engage in joint organizational campaigns was unanimously accepted. President Coughlin was authorized to appoint committees to meet with representatives of the Teamsters to immediately implement this program. In acting as it did, the Executive Board took recognition of the fact that the Teamsters have similar pacts with the Engineers, Carpenters, Laborers, Butchers, Machinists, Upholsterers, and Flight Engineers.

**Other Topics Discussed**

During the past six months, the OEIU has been quite successful in organizing chiropractors in the State of California. Thereafter, the organization received numerous requests from chiropractic organizations throughout the country requesting affiliation with the Office Employees International Union.

President Meany notified OEIU President Coughlin, just prior to the Executive Board meeting, that the AFL-CIO Executive Council had taken a policy position that chiropractors were not subject to membership within any union of the AFL-CIO.

After much discussion, it was agreed to withdraw all charters previously issued to chiropractors and offer to all of these organizations a return of all charter fees, initiation fees and dues.

The Executive Board expressed its regret at its inability to represent these professionals. While the board did not agree with the action of the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, it decided to conform to the policy established.

The Executive Board also unanimously affirmed all of the actions taken by the OEIU delegation at the recent AFL-CIO convention.

The board also announced that the next convention of the Office Employees International Union will be held during the week of June 15, 1959, at the Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal, Canada.

President Coughlin also reported that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters proposed an acceptable settlement to the Portland Teamster case which the OEIU won in the United States Supreme Court. This offer calls for all retroactive pay to the discharged employes and an offer of reinstatement.

A subcommittee, consisting of Vice Presidents Falcone and Springman, was appointed for purposes of studying the Constitution and making recommendations to the Executive Board at its next meeting.

**Local 153 Seeks to Represent All Medical Groups in Area**

Local 153, New York City, is presently engaged in an extensive campaign toward the organization of all Health Insurance Plan medical groups in the Metropolitan New York area.

There are 32 medical centers which render comprehensive medical care to its subscribers in this area. Many of its subscribers are members of trades unions who receive this comprehensive medical coverage through their union welfare plans.

Since 1947, Local 153 has represented the professional and clerical employes in the main office of the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York.
Employers Don't Agree

After five days' debate, the Senate unanimously adopted S. 2888, known as the Kennedy-Douglass-Ives Bill, which would require welfare and pension plans of all kinds, company and union, to register and file detailed annual reports with the United States Department of Labor.

During the course of the debates, a number of Republicans attempted to propose amendments which would, in effect, make the bill a general labor legislative program. These amendments were all defeated on the grounds that they had not been referred to their proper committees.

As we anticipated, employer opposition to S. 2888 is now mounting. This opposition is growing because companies are also required to cooperate with the U. S. Dept. of Labor, Commerce & Industry Association of New York, Inc., published a bulletin in which it asked all companies to write to the Chairman and Representatives of the House Committee on Education and Labor and urge the Committee to vote against this bill. Its main objection lies in the fact that it includes management. In other words, the bill is alright as long as it is directed against labor.

It is amazing that so many of our leaders in management today feel that it is legally possible to shackle labor without touching management. Obviously, if labor is legally restrained, it is only a matter of time before management will be treated in the same manner.

Saskatchewan Vacation Law

Saskatchewan has become the first Canadian Province to adopt a mandatory vacation law.

In accordance with recent legislation passed by the Saskatchewan government, all employers in the Province are to receive three (4) weeks' paid vacation after 5 years of service. In effect, it is possible, under the new law, for an employee to get six (6) weeks paid vacation every 4 years with the employer's permission. The employee can save a week's vacation every year for 3 years and take one grand vacation holiday of six (6) weeks in the fourth year.

We can't help but wonder about the reaction of certain United States corporations if such a law were enacted in the United States.

Unemployment Insurance

The House of Representatives recently approved a bill to extend unemployment insurance compensation to idle workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. This bill would provide more advances of federal moneys so that states can extend the maximum duration of benefits by 50 per cent.

Unfortunately, the bill does not provide a federal grant. It merely provides a loan which must be paid back within four years. Unfortunately, too, there is nothing in the bill requiring a state to institute this program.

While this bill is not as strong as the Kennedy-McCaffery bill, it does provide additional of Labor.

Some late figures indicate that the numbers of workers receiving unemployment insurance has declined. They also indicate that the numbers of those exhausting their unemployment insurance are on the increase. The unemployed who receive no benefits whatsoever or who have exhausted their benefits under unemployment insurance are a drain on the Nation's economy.

While the bill as passed in the House is not perfect, it may go a long way towards helping the plight of the unemployed whose unemployment insurance has expired, providing that the states affected take advantage of the federal loan.

Coughlin and Harriman Congratulate Moe Rosen

As a result of an invitation extended by President Howard Coughlin of the Labor Press Association and AFL-CIO, throughout the United States, AFL-CIO and the United Steel Workers Union, on his appointment as Commissioned Member of the New York State Liquor Authority.

President Howard Coughlin and Averell Harriman, Governor of the State of New York, are pictured congratulating Moe Rosen, national vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, on his appointment as a Commissioned Member of the New York State Liquor Authority.
Delegates and officers of Southeastern Conference in Mobile, Ala. The photograph was made late in the day when more than half the delegates had already returned from meetings in Washington.

Local 225 Renews Contract

A one-year renewal of the agreement between Office Employees' International Union, Local 225, Ontario, and the National Defense Employees' Association of Canada, was recently signed. Among the improvements gained by the union were the inauguration of a pension plan, reduction of the workweek from 35 to 321/2 hours, severance pay, and retirement leave. Severance pay ranges from one week's pay after one year's service to three months' pay after 15 years' service. Retirement leave ranges from one month after two years' service to six months after 25 years. Existing contract provisions which were renewed include: the union shop; seniority; time and a half for overtime with two hours guaranteed and transportation paid; double time for Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays; three weeks paid vacation after one year's service; all statutory holidays declared by the Government of Canada; and 15 days sick leave annually, to be cumulative.

It was agreed that the employee will contribute to a mutually acceptable group medical plan as soon as arrangements can be made. Mr. Ken Green, national secretary-treasurer, signed the contract on behalf of NDEA, and June Pappas, president of OEU Local 225, signed on behalf of the union. The agreement was reached at the NDEA convention held in Washington.

Signing British Columbia

Delegates and officers of the B.C. Electric Company Limited and officers and negotiating committee members of Local 378 and 369 signed the new agreement covering 1,800 OEU members. Sected, left to right are: Bill Widdowson, president of Local 369; Bill Brown, business manager, Local 278; Del Green, president of B.C. Electric; Bob Resche, president, Local 378; Ralph Freethy, president, Local 380; Stanley, left to right are: M. J. Fox, labour relations manager; Bill White, Local 378; Tom Ellis, vice president, Local 378; John Carson, industrial relations director; and Bill Low of Local 378 and International representative. The agreement was signed at the B.C. Electric plant.

Hale, Bloodworth Re-Elected in Southeast

At a recent meeting in Mobile, the Southeastern Organizational Conference reelected Mollie Henry Hale as president and J. Oscar Bloodworth as secretary-treasurer.

THE WHITE COLLAR

Canadian Corner

By LLOYD CHAPMAN
President, Canadian Organization Conference

Western Conference Meets in Phoenix

The Western Organizational Conference held its semi-annual meeting at Phoenix, Ariz., on May 17. This meeting was exceptionally well attended. 

Brothers Ken Brown, secretary-treasurer of the Arizona State Federation of Labor, and AFL-CIO Representative Elmer Thies, addressed the conference. Both speakers stated the difficulties encountered by Local Unions in the State of Arizona due to the tremendous obstacles placed in their way through "right to work" legislation. Brother Brown, in particular, emphasized the need to fight these various union-busting laws whenever they are presented to an electorate in any state.

President Howard Coughlin gave a rundown on the activities of the Office Employees International Union throughout the United States and Canada.

In view of the fact that the Executive Board of the Office Employees International Union was meeting subsequent to the Western Organizational Conference meeting, Vice-President Juliano and Fruitney were in attendance.

OEU Local 56 in Phoenix scored a host to the visiting Conference delegates. All were most impressed with the hospitality displayed by our Phoenix Brothers and Sisters.

During the course of the Conference meeting, Brotns Max Konig and Ralph Freethy gave a discussion on the problem facing the union and collective bargaining.

Sister Phyllis Mitchell gave a comprehensive report of the national campaign based on the experience gained by San Francisco Local 3.

Win Strike at Piel Brewery

Local 153 was successful in its strike called against the Piel Brothers Brewery in Brooklyn and Staten Island, N.Y., on April 25.

Through this action, Local 153 secured a wage settlement greater than the national pattern of $4.00 and $2.00 weekly, at a time when a general wage increase which has been around virtually all west coast work was prevented.

In this strike, Local 153 received the full support of the Teamsters Union and the Brewery Workers Joint Board and IBT, Local 1345. Their members were particularly mentioned for a job that was absolutely shut down of both breweries. The employees, through arbitration, tried to force these brothers to cross the picket lines. However, the workers held firm against the employer.

From the first negotiating session, the employer tried to extend the sales contract for thirty days so that it would follow the industry-wide contract with the Brewery Workers which expired May 31, 1958. This, naturally, would have put Local 153 in a position of accepting a wage offer similar to that offered the industry by the industry.

It is obvious the problem was one that would have been created in trying to get sanction from the Brewery Workers Joint Board, Teamsters Joint Council 16 and IBT, Local 1345 to re-open our lines if we took economic sanction against the company for a local package which would have continued their settlement.

This and other reasons made it necessary for Local 153 to place the line that had the drive to force a better pattern than the $4.00 and $2.00 weekly wage offer, at a time when the industry wage increase sought by the salemen, a very important issue was the protection of the brewery operation, a definite threat in the Metropolitan New York area. This plan called for the driver settling the beer as well as making the deliveries.

As a result of the strike which lasted from May 1 to May 8, 1958, inclusive, the following settlement was reached:

1. A job security guarantee for the on-plant salesman for the life of the contract.
2. A general wage increase of $6.00 paid May 15 and $3.00 per year.
3. A two-year agreement.
4. An increase of $4.00 per month in the salesman's car allowance and an additional increase of $2.00 per month next year.
5. A guarantee that we would not lose holiday benefits when a holiday falls on a Sunday.
6. Concessional assurance that our salesman members may not be discharged for failing to sign a sanctioned picket line at the Brewery.
7. The General Manager Local 153 certainly gained the respect and admiration of the rank and file and the rank and file of the IBT Brew- ery Workers Joint Board, Teamsters Joint Council 16 and IBT, Local 1345 and has served notice on the Brewers Board of Trade that Local 153 is to return to work in a knock down, drag out fight.
Father Knickerbocker Likes His Brew

Andrew J. McMahon, president of Jacob Ruppert Brewery Limited, today was scheduled to open his company's new $1,500,000 brewery in the new York metropolitan area for union workers.

The brewery, which is the only 100 per cent union operated brewery in New York City, has announced a special service for union locals planning outings, picnics and other activities.

"Services guaranteeing outstandingly successful and memorable gatherings in 1953" are described by the company in a folder mailed to all union locals in the metropolitan area. They include assistance in planning union membership gatherings, fund raising events and other occasions as well as help in finding suitable locations and in selecting prices and souvenirs.

"We are happy to be able to offer a special service to union groups. We have long and friendly records of cooperation with organized labor and pride in the fact that it is the only completely organized brewery in the New York area," it was stated by Walter S. Driskill, vice president in charge of marketing for the company.

"Just as we work with 13 different unions in our operations in the New York brewery alone, we look forward to working with many more union locals in helping them to have happier and more successful social and business meetings during 1958," he stated in describing the new service.

The program is administered by the Labor and Community Relations Department of Jacob Ruppert, brewers of Knickerbocker "New York's Famous Beer".

Florida Hotel Wants To Eat Cake, Keep It

Recently the American Jewish Congress announced a change in its convention site from the Deauville Hotel to the Carlton in Miami Beach, Fia.

They made this change because they found that the Deauville Hotel had obtained an injunction restraining the hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, Local 18, from providing service at the Deauville from the time of the actual convention. They then proceeded to show that the services provided by the Carlton, a unionized hotel.

In a resiliency move, the Hotel Deauville sought the aid of the Dade County Circuit Court to have the American Jewish Congress meeting at any other hotel in Florida. It would appear that the Hotel Deauville wants the right to anti-union but does not wish to allow its clients to patronize union establishments.

This is an example of how most anti-union management think. We congratulate the American Jewish Congress on its forthright attitude.

Following Doctor's Orders

"Barbender, put another cherry in my drink," the husk demanded. "My doctor told me I should cut more fruit."...

Life's Like That

By the time you can write your own ticket, you're too old to go passed "right-to-work" laws and which prevents labor unions from gaining the same protection that the Texas Bar Association affords lawyers.

If the National Association of Manufacturers, the Chambers of Commerce and the National Right To Work Committee opposed the Union Shop, the Texas Bar Association, they would be prevented from doing anything to repress and deny the workers their basic civil liberties.

Under no circumstances are they attempting to gain greater freedom for the workers.

French Thrift

On the entrance of a French country house is a sign: "Close the door. Remember, it is your money that pays for heating these rooms."

The Old Grind

Laws of woman plug away all day, with the cords attached to their electrical appliances.

Eugé Brever

Some people have read so much about the harmful effects of smoking that they have decided to give smoking a reading.

Coughlin Speaks

At U. of New Mexico

(Continued from page 1)

After his initial presentation, President Coughlin answered questions asked of him by students in attendance.

Professor Wollman, in thanking President Coughlin for his appearance, stated that this was the first time an international president had scheduled an address at the university.

Seek to Organize Medical Groups

(Continued from page 1)

New York and has been successful in creating several groups who are the most ideal contacts with rates as high as $167.00 per week for your employees.

To date, through the diligent planning and actions of Acting Business Manager Ben Coats, Loc. 115 has been successful in getting responses from the local directors of the East Bronx Medical Center and the Brooklyn Medical Center.

The ultimate goal of Local 13 is to organize all independent medical groups which employ approximately 400 employees and negotiate a master agreement which would establish standard wage rates for each classification including interns and any other fringe benefits and to permit transfers from one center to another when promotions or vacations occur.

Please Clip

For further information, send this clipping to:
Office Employee International Union
265 West 14th Street
New York 11, N. Y.

I am interested in securing additional information regarding the Office Employees International Union. I can be contacted at:

Name

Address

City

State

Phone No.

French Thrift

On the entrance of a French country house is a sign: "Close the door. Remember, it is your money that pays for heating these rooms."